

Appl. No. 09/889,300

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12-14, but indicated that claims 4-5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Although Applicants do not concede the propriety of the Examiner's new rejection, the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter so as to expedite grant of a patent on the subject matter already indicated as being allowable.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. Since claim 8 is dependent upon claim 1, claim 8 now is of the same scope as claim 10 which was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Claims 5-7 are all dependent upon claim 1 and claims 9, 12 and 14 are all dependent upon claim 8, so that all of the claims should now be allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Applicants specifically reserve the right to file any necessary divisional applications to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims, or other subject matter described in the application.

If there are any minor matters outstanding which need to be resolved in order to place in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (714) 708-8555.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Leonard R. Svensson, #30,330

LRS/lmt
0147-0229PP.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(714) 708-8555

Attachment(s)